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NASHVILLE – Updated wage information on more than 670 occupations is now available on the Department of Labor & Workforce Development's Web site, Commissioner of Labor & Workforce Development Michael E. Magill announced today, and it can save you time and money.

“Our wage information is more comprehensive than ever before, both in number of occupations and in access to comparative data for more time periods and areas,” Magill reported. “More than 25,000 employers participated in the survey, which is very important to the quality and quantity of the information available.” Data are available now at <http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/wages/intro.htm>.

“The Web allows quick access to extensive data that are often requested by job seekers and employers. New and existing employers can check out the average wage ranges for hundreds of occupations and save on doing their own surveys. Students enrolled in training programs and their families can better gauge their potential income upon graduation,” Magill added.

The data are based on three years of surveys, and responses were collected over the entire range of occupations, with a variety of educational and training requirements. Results available for each occupation include number of employees; entry, mean and median wage levels; and the midrange of pay between the 25th and 75th percentiles.

The largest job group is office and administrative support, followed by the production group and transportation and material moving occupations (see the attached graph of Tennessee Employment by Occupational Group, 2000). Annual average salaries for the job groups range from \$57,250 for Management Occupations to \$15,080 for Food Preparation and Serving Occupations, for a difference of \$42,170.

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New capability available this year on the Web site includes the following:

- Comparison of 1998, 1999, and 2000 average wages for each occupation, with the year-to-year increase calculated;
- Easy comparison of state average wages to substate area wages;
- Entry, mean and median, 25th and 75th percentile wages for each occupation;
- For each occupation, geographic areas of the state with highest employment and best pay.

Of the 22 major occupational groups, the three with the most rapidly increasing wages from 1999-2000 and employment of more than 3,500 are these:

<u>Major Occupational Group</u>	<u>Rate of Increase 1999-2000</u>
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	4.5%
Community and Social Service Occupations	4.3%
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	4.2%

Increases for individual occupations within these three groups are listed in the attached table. Data for these occupations as well as for other major groups are also listed on the Web site at <http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/wages/areas.htm>

Employers were randomly selected from the unemployment insurance program files to participate in the survey. Individual employer responses are confidential. Tennessee's final response rate was 14th in the nation, with responses from more than 77 percent of employers surveyed.

Collecting occupational employment and wage data is an ongoing process. While wage data for the most recent survey are being released, collection for the 2001 survey round began October 2001 and will continue until mid-August of this year.

For wage information, write to the Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Research and Statistics – Occupational Data Unit, Davy Crockett Tower, 11th Floor, 500 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee 37245-1000, call (615) 741-3639, or check the Internet site at <http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/wages/intro.htm>.

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El Departamento del Trabajo y de la Fuerza Laboral es un organismo empresarial que aplica la igualdad de oportunidades. Los Servicios y ayudas auxiliares están disponibles para los individuos con impedimentos si los solicitan.

Key Occupations and Their Rates of Pay Increase, 1999-2000

<u>Major Group</u>	<u>Median Annual Salary</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Office and Administrative Support		
<u>Key Occupations:</u>		
Customer Service Representatives	\$21,800	4.5%
Desktop Publishers	\$22,630	4.4%
General Office Clerks	\$19,810	4.6%
Tellers	\$18,020	4.7%
Executive Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	\$27,250	4.5%
Office Managers	\$32,420	4.5%
Community and Social Service Occupations		
<u>Key Occupations:</u>		
Probation Officers and Correctional Specialists	\$27,750	4.4%
Mental Health Counselors	\$23,140	4.3%
Child, Family, and School Social Workers	\$24,600	4.2%
Computer and Mathematical Occupation		
<u>Key Occupations:</u>		
Computer Support Specialists	\$30,350	4.2%
Computer Systems Analysts	\$52,650	4.2%
Network and Computer Systems Administrators	\$44,860	4.0%